

May 2023

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**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Gallia County
111 Jackson Pike, Suite
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Gallipolis, OH 45631

Gallia County Agriculture Newsletter

Hello Gallia County,

It is hard to believe that it is already May. I would like to share with you a couple of important programs that are coming up in the month of May. The first is the return of the **Master Gardener Volunteer Program** to Gallia County. On **May 11th** I will have an open house to discuss starting up a Master Gardener Volunteer Program in the county. So, if you have an interest or want to learn more, come to the extension office at 4 p.m. and we will talk about the future of this program. Then on **May 20th**, there is a Farm **Safety Day and Grain Bin Rescue Training** at the Gallia Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to Noon. I would highly recommend coming because safety should always be number one on the farm. **See the attached flyers for more information.** All the event's dates, times, and locations are listed on the next page.

You can also stay updated with the latest information by checking out our website gallia.osu.edu or our Facebook page **Ohio State – Gallia County Extension**. If you have any questions, you can reach me at the office, at **740-446-7007** or my cell phone, at **740-350-0417** or by E-mail, at penrose.30@osu.edu.

Have a great May,

Jordan Penrose

Jordan Penrose,
Gallia County
Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Extension Educator

enclosures

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Upcoming Events

Please RSVP for the events that you plan on attending by calling the office at **740-446-7007** or e-mailing, at **penrose.30@osu.edu**.

- May 11th** Master Gardener Volunteer Program Open House @ 4 p.m. at the Gallia County Extension Office. **See attached flyer for more!**
- May 18th** 4-H Lamb and Goat weigh-in from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. @ the Gallia Fairgrounds
- May 20th** Safety Day and Grain Bin Rescue Training From 9 a.m. to Noon at the Gallia Fairgrounds. **See attached flyer for more!**

Early Season Pasture Management – By Christine Gelley, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Noble County OSU Extension – Published in The Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter

Most pastures are looking lush and green again. Thanks to some perfect temperature days, our cool-season pasture grasses are growing well. Grazing animals seem pleased to have some fresh greens and managers certainly are relieved to see the landscape change from dreary to dreamy again.

With the good that the spring flush of growth brings, there are also some concerns that we shouldn't forget in the midst of the joy. Now is the time that grass tetany may become a problem and bloat can be an issue too in some circumstances. We also need to continue to consider the health of our forage and soils.

Remember:

- Actively growing pastures still need rest between grazing cycles. Allowing pastures to rest can help decrease damage to the plant roots from over grazing and reduce pugging of the field due to heavy animal traffic when the ground is still soft.
- When first turning animals out onto lush pasture, limit the time that they spend grazing. Avoid turning ravenously hungry animals out on pasture. The adjustment to their diet (from stored forage to fresh forage) can cause disruption to the digestive tract (leading to bloat or diarrhea) and disrupt the balance of minerals in the body. Continue to provide hay for the animals for the first few weeks of grazing.
- Grass tetany is a risk in early spring because the ratio of magnesium in the forage can be too low and cause an imbalance of magnesium in the blood of grazing livestock, which can lead to death. Animals that are lactating are at greater risk for grass tetany than non-lactating animals. To help combat the risk of grass tetany, provided a good source of free-choice mineral with adequate magnesium leading up to and through the early grazing period.
- Avoid applying nitrogen fertilizer until after the first grazing cycle (probably until May).

Applying nitrogen too early will encourage grass to grow faster and taller but will likely stress the root system. Always start your fertility management strategies with doing a soil test!

It is exciting and gratifying to send animals out to graze, just keep these things in mind as we get into the swing of spring.

White Muscle Disease in Sheep and Goats – By Michael Metzger, Michigan State University Extension Educator – Published in the OSU Sheep Team (Previously published on MSU Extension, Sheep & Goat: January 19, 2019)

If you are raising sheep and goats in Michigan or other selenium-deficient areas, you need to take measures to prevent white muscle disease.

White muscle disease (WMD) is caused by a deficiency of selenium and/or vitamin E. It is a degenerative muscle disease found in all large animals including sheep and goats. Generally, it is not known which. Selenium (Se) deficiency is associated with selenium-deficient soils and the inadequate uptake of selenium by forages grown on these soils. Certain areas of the U.S., including Michigan, are considered low in selenium levels. Vitamin E deficiency is independent of soil type and more closely reflects forage quality. Fresh legumes and pasture are good sources of vitamin E and stored feeds tend to be poor sources of vitamin E. Stored feeds can lose up to 50% of their vitamin E a month. All breeds of sheep and goats are susceptible to WMD, and it is most common in newborns or fast-growing animals. Kids are more susceptible than lambs, possibly because they have a higher requirement for selenium.

The disease can affect both the skeletal and cardiac muscles. Skeletal muscle symptoms vary from mild stiffness to obvious pain upon walking or an inability to stand. Lambs/kids may tremble in pain when held in a standing position. Hunched animals with a stiff gait are common. Affected lambs/kids may remain bright and have normal appetites until they become too weak to nurse. When the problem occurs in newborns, they are born weak and often cannot get on their feet. Sudden exercise may trigger the condition in older lambs and kids. In adult animals' deficient animals may have poor conception rates, abortions, stillbirths and miscarriages, retained placentas, or deliver weak kids or lambs. Cardiac symptoms can be very similar to pneumonia. They include difficult breathing, frothy nasal discharge, and fever. Heart rate and respiratory rate are elevated and irregular. Both types of WMD often occur at the same time. When WMD affects the skeletal muscles it can be treated with supplemental selenium and vitamin E and animals should respond within 24 hours. Cardiac muscle damage is often permanent.

White muscle disease can be prevented by supplementing selenium and vitamin E in areas where soils are deficient. Selenium supplementation is controlled by law. Total daily consumption of selenium must not exceed 0.7mg/head/day. Ideally the total diet for sheep and goats should contain between 0.10 to 0.30 ppm of selenium. Injectable forms of selenium are available but are a poor alternative to supplementing in the feed and Michigan State University Extension does not recommend using an injectable form of supplementation in sheep and goats.

Act Now to Keep Pastures Growing the Entire Grazing Season – By Chris Penrose, Professor and Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, OSU Extension, Morgan Co. – Published in The Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter (Previously published on the Ohio Cattleman)

The warm February temperatures caused some of our forages to break dormancy early but the cooler March temperatures slowed down progress. We are now at a stage where our forage management decisions can affect forage availability for the entire season. Depending on the season

and your location, perennial forages typically go through the reproductive stage in late April into May. After they set seed, these plants quickly transition from the reproductive stage into the vegetative stage. Up to this transition, energy of the plant moves up from the roots to the seeds, but with the transition, energy movement will primarily move from the leaves to the roots. As we move through summer this will help build up root reserves to help the plant survive the winter. What can we do to help keep plants vegetative and productive as long as possible?

First, removing the seed heads will stimulate new leaf development to build root reserves and provide more growth for grazing. Some of this can be accomplished by grazing livestock, but we may also need to clip some fields. If livestock have been out of a field for a period of time, planning to cut a portion of those pastures for hay is an excellent option. The other option is to clip or rotary cut the fields. Either one of these options will stimulate more leaf growth than no seed head removal at all.

Next, the height at which we clip the fields will make a difference. Have you ever noticed after a field is clipped and has a chance to grow that livestock will tend to not graze below the cutting height unless they are left in a field too long? This is a tool we can use to encourage certain types of plant production. For example, if I am trying to encourage orchardgrass growth, I would want to clip my field high, say five inches. If I am trying to encourage bluegrass growth, I would cut much closer.

Clipping pastures higher has another advantage. Removing the seed heads and leaving more leaf will provide shade for the soil and reduce evaporation. The additional leaves will gather more energy for the roots. If we receive one of those heavy rains in July, the additional cover will allow much more moisture to soak into the soil and not run off, providing more growth for the plants.

If forage growth is more than what your animals can use right now; consider removing some of the paddocks for hay. Then they can go back into the grazing rotation after pasture growth slows down or if hay needs are still short, one can take an additional cutting of hay.

Continue to monitor fields frequently as growth will likely start slowing down as summer approaches and we do not want to overgraze pastures. Letting them grow to proper heights and not grazing too close will allow for more forage availability for the entire season. If growth slows down too much, we are better to put cattle in a sacrifice lot and feed stored forages than to let them graze all of the paddocks down. If animals are removed prior to plants being grazed too close, new growth will start from the leaves without a reduction in root reserves. If they are grazed too close, root growth will stop and new growth will need to start from root reserves, weakening the plant.

Root growth does not cease until 50% of the leaf is removed. This is one of the reasons we recommend taking half and leaving half in pastures.

So, how tall should the pasture be before we graze and how close can we graze it? Tables 1 and 2 provide guidelines for grazing height.

Table 1: Managing Grazing Height for Pure Grass Stands

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre-graze inches</u>	<u>Post-graze inches</u>
Perennial Ryegrass	6-7	3
Orchardgrass	8-10	4-5
T. Fescue (E+)	5-6	1-4*
T. Fescue (E-)	8-10	4-5
Brome grass	Pre or late jointing 2-3	
Timothy	Pre or late jointing 4	

* You may want to graze closer to four inches during summer months as the endophyte can accumulate more at the base of the plant and graze closer in the winter months.

(Source: Ohio Integrated Forage Management Team)

Table 2: Managing Grazing Height for Grass/Legume Mixtures

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre-graze inches</u>	<u>Post-graze inches</u>
Bluegrass/w clover	4-5	1
OG/L clover	6-8	2
T fescue/L clover	5-8	1.5-2
Alfalfa with grass	bud	2
Red clover with grass	bud	2

(Source: Ohio Integrated Forage Management Team)

Finally, it's never too early to consider which fields could be stockpiled for fall and winter grazing. After our first cutting of hay, we should have a good idea of what our winter feed needs will be. If quantity will be our biggest need, we can start stockpiling forages, especially fescue, in July. If quality is a more pressing need, we can wait to stockpile in August. In either scenario, 50 pounds of nitrogen should increase yields by 1000 pounds/acre and may increase protein content.

As spring progresses, there are several things we can do to influence the quality and quantity of our pasture fields for the rest of the season. We simply need to evaluate our needs, plan accordingly, keep looking down the road to get a sense of what is coming, and take action.

Our OSU students answer agricultural law questions – By Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law – Published in the OHIO AG LAW BLOG

Sixty-six undergraduate students just completed our Agribusiness Law class in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at OSU yesterday. It's always a challenge to teach students all I want them to know about agricultural law in the short time I have with them. And it always generates excitement and relief when I can see that they have learned.

In one assignment this semester, students had to consider the property laws we studied and devise three “real life” questions about the laws. Next, they had to write the answers to the questions they drafted. The legal accuracy of their answers is important, of course, and illustrates their

comprehension of the laws we studied. But selecting and writing the questions is equally important, as students must predict when and how the law would apply in a “real world” situation they might encounter.

Many of the student works showed that learning had certainly taken place this semester. And some of their questions were so insightful and relevant that they should also be useful in the “real world.” Below are excellent questions and answers from four students. They illustrate what the students learned, but they will likely be helpful for our readers, too. Take a look at what our students are asking and answering about agricultural property laws!

Question 1 comes from Katie Anderholm, a senior from Medina, Ohio majoring in Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

Q: Am I at risk to be sued from my new neighbors who keep complaining about my cows?

A: A farmer is not at risk to be sued, or at least rightfully sued, by their new neighbors because of the Ohio Revised Code 929.04 and 3767.13. Both codes, the Right to Farm defense to civil action for nuisance and Ohio’s “Statutory Nuisance” Law, protect farmers and their operations from complaints regarding farming. The farmer’s neighbors who have been complaining about his cows do not have a strong argument for legal action because the agricultural activities were established before they moved adjacent to the farm. If the farmer is following proper animal care and manure handling and the neighbors moved after the farming began, then the neighbors will not have merit for a civil action. I would advise the farmer to have a conversation with the neighbors to ease tensions and explain that they knowingly moved next to a cattle operation and that there are certain things that come with that. I have learned that people who are not involved in agriculture in their everyday life do not understand the fundamentals, and sometimes education and consideration can go a long way.

Question 2 is from Cori Lee, a senior from Marysville, Ohio, graduating this May with a major in Sustainable Plant Systems Agronomy and a minor in Agribusiness.

Q: Two siblings own ground that was passed on to them by their parents, where one farms, and the other one has no interest in farming. Can one sibling sell the land, even if the other one does not want to? What can be done to prevent losing the ground?

Yes, as co-owners, one sibling can sell their share of the land, even if the other sibling disagrees and is actively using the land for income and farming. This would force the other sibling to either also sell their share of the land or buy the other sibling out. This is explained in Section 5307.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, the partition law. Whether it is considered a “Tenancy in Common” or “Survivorship Tenancy”, they are both subject to partition. The partition process is also explained in Chapter 5307, and is often lengthy and can ultimately result in both owners being forced to sell the land. However, placing the land in an LLC can prevent this situation, as it would remove partition rights completely and the LLC would be treated as the sole owner of the land. This also provides other opportunities to have more control over how the land could be sold and allow terms to be set to buy out other LLC members. In order to avoid a scenario like this, landowners should carefully plan the transition of their estate to avoid any costly mistakes for the next generation.

Question 3 is by Kole Vollrath, a senior from South Charleston, Ohio majoring in Construction Systems Management.

Q: I own a field and the state has contacted me seeking eminent domain for a roadway that they are

planning to build cutting directly through my field. I am new to this sort of action and I am wondering what the proper actions will be in this case?

A: Ohio Revised Code Chapter 163 is the eminent domain law that contains the four required procedures the taking entity (the state in this situation) must provide to the landowner. The first is the notice which you have already received, followed by a “just compensation” offer for the land in question, then appraisal of the property, and then finally a hearing in court to decide on or stop the taking if you don't agree to the offer. In the situation of a road as in this case, it is hard to stop the taking, so the fourth option will likely be more about getting fair money out of the deal rather than stopping construction completely. The reason that it will be hard to stop a road construction is because of Ohio Constitution Article 1 Section 19. This explains that eminent domain is allowed to happen when it is for a valid public use of the property, and since this is a road, it will be hard to argue that is not valid. However, it can still be beneficial to the landowner to hold strong in steps 2 and 3 and get an appraisal, then go to court and try to extract fair money for yourself out of the situation.

Question 4 is from Lyndie Williams, a senior from Bucyrus, Ohio majoring in Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

Q: Can I be held accountable for damage to a neighbor's property that they claim is due to water drainage from my property?

A: In short, yes it is possible to be held accountable for damage to a neighbor's property if it was caused by water drainage from your property, but not always. While every property owner has the right to reasonably use their land, including water flow and drainage, there can be consequences of this if harm is caused to others. First, determining what is “reasonable” for water drainage when evaluating harm to another is necessary. Courts will look at four factors when determining reasonable drainage: utility of the use, gravity of the harm, practicality of avoiding the harm, and justice. If your purpose for drainage is valid, the harm caused by drainage use is not overly detrimental to others, it is impractical to use an alternative form of drainage, and it is not unfair to require other landowners to bear losses caused by your drainage, then you would not likely be held accountable for damage to their property due to water drainage from your property. However, if some or all of these “reasonable” requirements are not met, then you would need to look into drainage problem resolutions, as you could be accountable for their damages. Drainage problem resolutions include voluntary fix, drainage improvement projects, drainage easements, and litigation. For example, one drainage problem resolution is a drainage easement which is in writing, recorded, and involves an attorney. In a drainage easement you would pay the neighboring landowner for the right to drain your water onto their property for the damages they will incur as a result. Drainage easements are usually perpetual but can be termed and include access and maintenance rights and responsibilities for the easement holder.

Ohio State expert: expect to see more ticks statewide this season – By Tracy Turner – Published in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences News Releases

Backyard lovers, campers, outdoors enthusiasts, and pet owners beware. If you thought last year's tick season was bad, just wait. This year has the potential to be even worse.

Ticks—and the diseases they carry—are on the rise in Ohio and will likely continue to increase. There has been a steady increase in tick-vectored disease numbers in Ohio each year, and officials don't expect to see a reverse of the trend, said Tim McDermott, an educator with Ohio State University

Extension, the outreach arm of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“While you can encounter a tick during any season, spring marks the beginning of heavy tick season, and this year, the tick population statewide is expected to continue to rise,” he said.

McDermott said there are multiple factors contributing to the increase in tick-vectoring disease, including global climate change, tick range expansion, and increasing numbers of wildlife living in close proximity to people.

“Ticks are extraordinarily adaptable and can travel on host animals,” he said. “Ticks expand when their habitat range expands due to global climate change. They take advantage of what they can take advantage of to move to new spaces. So now, every year going forward has the potential to be bad, and you should go into each tick season thinking about how you can keep you and your family tick safe.”

For example, 20 years ago, the American dog tick was the only tick in Ohio that was of medical importance to humans, companion animals, and livestock, McDermott said. Now, there are five ticks in Ohio that are of concern: the American dog tick; the blacklegged tick (also known as the deer tick); the Lone Star tick; and most recently, both the Asian longhorned tick and the Gulf Coast tick, both of which were first confirmed in Ohio in 2020.

“In fact, we are also up to seven counties in Ohio with Asian longhorned tick as of right now, including Franklin County,” he said. “We will be closely monitoring to see if we add any new Ohio counties with Asian longhorned ticks in 2023.

“We have seen the first case of disease from this tick in Ohio when a beef cow was vectored theileria, a protozoal parasite, last summer.”

With the rising tick population comes the risk of contracting tickborne illnesses such as anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Lyme disease. And in some cases, in some people, Lone Star ticks can cause an allergy to red meat after the person is bitten by the tick.

“In Ohio, ticks are most active from April through September, although they can be active any time of the year,” he said. We have had positive cases of Lyme disease diagnosed in every month of the year in Ohio.

“It’s not just walking out in the woods when you can encounter ticks. Some can do fine in a pasture, hayfield, or even your backyard lawn,” he said. “I have already had two ticks on me while working in my demonstration garden at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory.”

McDermott said that while the risk of encountering ticks in Ohio is high, and the number of ticks that are carrying diseases is high, there are things people can do to keep themselves safe. One way to control ticks is through proper management of their habitat.

“Keep your yard mowed, and do not allow brush or leaf litter to accumulate,” he said. “Remove brush, tall weeds, and grass in order to eliminate the habitat of rodents and other small mammals, which serve as hosts for ticks as well as serve as prime tick habitat.”

To prevent tick bites when in areas where ticks might be active, McDermott recommends that you do the following:

- Wear light-colored clothes, including a long-sleeved shirt tucked into your pants and long pants tucked into your socks or boots.
- Apply a tick repellent according to label instructions.
- Wear footwear and clothing that have been treated correctly with permethrin. These can be purchased through many outfitters and clothing companies.
- Do frequent tick checks of your body while outside, and do a thorough inspection at shower time.
- Protect your pets with an anti-tick product recommended by a veterinarian.
- Keep dogs on a leash, and avoid allowing them into weedy areas.

If you find a tick attached, do the following:

- Do not crush or puncture it.
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible using pointy tweezers or a tick removal tool. Pull straight up and out with steady, even pressure.
- Thoroughly wash the bite site, your hands, and the tweezers or removal tool with warm soap and water.
- Place the tick in a container with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. Record the day the tick was likely to have attached.
- Take the specimen with you to a healthcare professional if you develop flu-like symptoms, a rash, or anything that is unusual for you.

“If you think you might have been exposed to a tick bite, contact your physician right away to get a diagnosis,” McDermott said. “It’s very important to receive the appropriate treatment as soon as possible.”

CFAES

Thursday

MAY

11

4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

**Location: Gallia
County Extension
Office**

Master Gardener Volunteer Program Open House

Do you want to learn more about plants and gardening? Do you want to participate in a practical and intensive training program? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Master Gardeners may be just the thing for you! If you have an interest at all, come to Extension Office and learn more about the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

We will be having an open house to talk about starting up the Master Gardener Volunteer Program here in Gallia County. So, if you have an interest or want to learn more come to the extension office at 4 p.m. and we will talk about the future of this program.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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Safety Day & Grain Bin Rescue Training

May 20th from 9-12 at Gallia Fairgrounds

The Gallia County Farm Bureau will be hosting a safety day as well as a firefighter grain bin rescue training.

You will be able to visit various health and safety stations at the event as well as hearing about the OSU Grain Safety CART.



GALLIA
COUNTY